

a.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a lactating cow mastitis ~~in a ruminant~~ that suffers from mastitis, ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

administering to the lactating cow which suffers from mastitis a
therapeutically effective amount of phytase ~~to said ruminant~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for treating mastitis in mammals~~
of according to claims 1 or 15 claim 1, which comprises administering feedstuff containing
50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry feed matter.

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for treating mastitis of~~ according
to claims 14 or 16 claim 1 wherein the ~~mammal is a cow and the~~ feedstuff is formula feed
~~for dairy cows~~ contains 100 to 1,500 units phytase per kg of dry feed matter.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for treating mastitis in mammals~~
~~of claim 2~~ according to claims 14 or 16, wherein the feedstuff comprises formula feed.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for treating mastitis in mammals~~
~~of claim 2~~ according to claims 14 or 16, wherein the feedstuff further comprises zinc
methionine sulfate.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method for ~~preventing mastitis in a dairy~~
~~cow, which comprises selecting a dairy cow that exhibits an increased number of somatic~~

~~cells in her milk, and administering according to claim 8, wherein the feedstuff comprising a therapeutically effective amount of contains 250 to 750 units of phytase to lactating cow per kg of dry feed matter.~~

Claims 10-13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) The method according to claim 1, which comprises administering feedstuff containing 50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry feed matter and wherein the concentration of somatic cells in the milk of the lactating cow is greater than 2.5×10^5 cells/ml prior to treatment.

15. (New) A method of treating a herd of lactating cows, the milk of which is pooled, after it has been determined at least one of said lactating cows suffers from mastitis, comprising:

administering to the herd, including said lactating cow which suffers from mastitis, a therapeutically effective amount of phytase.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, which comprises administering feedstuff containing 50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry feed matter and wherein the concentration of somatic cells in the pooled milk is greater than 2.5×10^5 cells/ml prior to treatment.